[25th August 1955

Steps for increasing the prices of agricultural produce in Malabar

* 2266 *Q.*—Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have initiated any steps to increase the prices of agricultural produce in Malabar, particularly tapioca and pepper; and

(*b*) if so, what they are?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The information required by the hon. Member is given in the statement [a] placed on the table of the House."

8-50 a.m. Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know whether this Government have made suitable recommendations to the Government of India with regard to fall in prices of agricultural produce in Malabar? If so, may I know why the Committee constituted by the Agricultural Ministry of the Government of India failed to take the opinion from the public with regard to the price variations of agricultural produce in Malabar? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I may tell the hon. Member that the State Government have not been sleeping over this question. They have been taking suitable action then and there. Particularly regarding tapioca and pepper in which Malabar is very much interested and concerned, Government have taken necessary action. They have permitted free export of tapioca stalks and tapioca products and other things. They have further extended the period for free exports which would help to increase the prices. But, I may also tell the hon. Member that the consumption of tapioca has very much fallen on account of the larger production of rice and greater availability of rice.

" Regarding pepper, this Government have recommended to the Central Government and they have agreed to reduce the export duty from 30 per cent or Rs. 65 per hundred weight, whichever is lower to 15 per cent *ad valorem*. As this has also been accepted by the Government of India, it should help to some extent the checking of the fall in price of pepper."

Sri C. H. KANARAN :—" Sir, in the questionnaire prepared by the Government of India, the fact of falling prices of pepper and other products of Malabar has been excluded. May I know the reason for it and also why this Government did not press the Government of India to include these products of Malabar? "

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 771 infra.

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I have already stated that this Government have been taking all necessary action and pointing out to the Government of India about the action to be taken regarding pepper and other articles which are produced in Malabar."

SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV :—" In view of the fact that coconut is an important crop of Malabar and the price of coconut is very low, will the Government take urgent steps to increase duty on foreign crop by approaching the Central Government so as to get an increased price for coconut? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I may assure the hon. Member that this Government have been taking suitable steps in the matter. But, I would also like to tell him that the people here are very much interested in consuming coconuts and it is therefore not in the interests of the consumer to see that the price stands at a very high level."

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—" എക്സ്പോട്ട് ഡ്യൂട്ടി കുറച്ചതു കൊണ്ടുമാത്രം കുരുമുളകിന്നു വില വർദ്ധിക്കാൻ പോകുന്നില്ല. കൂടുതൽ മാർക്കെററുണ്ടാക്കിയാലെ വില വർദ്ധിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ. അതിന്നുവേണ്ടി ഗവർമ്മെണ്ട് എന്തെങ്കിലും നടപടി എടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ ? ഇന്ത്യാ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിലേക്കു എന്തെങ്കിലും ശിപാർശി അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" இந்த பெப்பரை உள்ளூரில் இருக்கிறவர்கள் சாப்பிடுங்கள். வெளியூரில் இருக்கிறவர்களையும் சாப்பிடவேண்டுமென்று பிரசாரம் செய்யுங்கள். வெளியூரில் விற்றால்தான் விலையும் கொஞ்சம் கிடைக்கும். ஆகவே எவ்வளவு தூரம் அதிகமாக எற்றுமதி செய்ய முடியுமோ அவ்வளவு தூரம் முயற்சி எடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றது."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, Indian pepper has lost a major portion of the foreign market because of adulteration of bad quality. Have the Government suggested to the Central Government that the situation may be effectively met so that the foreign market may improve? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, Government are fully aware of this aspect of the situation and they have been taking suitable steps."

Dismissal of certain sanitary workers in Manapparai Panchayat Board

* 2267 Q.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the sanitary workers employed under the Panchayat Board, Manapparai, Tiruchirappalli district, regarding the dismissal of certain workers during February 1955;

(b) whether the Government enquired into the matter; and

(c) if so, with what results?